

00862.022377.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| Yoshiharu KATAOKA |) | Prior Examiner: W.C. Vesperman |
| |) | Prior Group Art Unit: 2813 |
| Application No.: Divisional of Appln. No. 09/946,486, |) | |
| filed September 6, 2001 |) | |
| Filed: March 17, 2004 |) | |
| For: ALIGNMENT METHOD AND |) | |
| EXPOSURE APPARATUS USING |) | March 17, 2004 |
| THE METHOD |) | |

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

These documents were cited during prosecution of copending parent application no. 09/946,486, filed September 6, 2001.

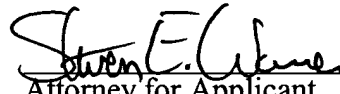
Japanese patent document number 7-321012 is discussed on page 1 of the subject specification.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) March 17, 2004 | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.022377.1 | | APPLICATION NO. Divisional of Appln. No. 09/946,486, filed September 6, 2001 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT Yoshiharu KATAOKA | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE March 17, 2004 | | GROUP | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | US-5,783,341 | 07/21/1998 | Uzawa | 430 | 22 | |
| | | US-5,751,428 | 05/12/1998 | Kataoka et al. | 356 | 401 | |
| | | US-6,416,912 B1 | 07/09/2002 | Kobayashi et al. | 430 | 22 | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 7-321012 | 12/08/1995 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.